



Congressional Diabetes Caucus

Rep. George Nethercutt
Co-chair

Rep. Diana DeGette
Co-chair

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2002

Contact: April Gentry (Nethercutt)
(202) 225-2006

Congressional Diabetes Caucus supports initiative to lower diabetes risk by monitoring A1C levels

WASHINGTON -- Co-chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, Reps. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), lent their support at the unveiling of a new initiative designed to help Americans manage their diabetes risk by learning a vital number: A1C.

“Aim. Believe. Achieve. The Diabetes A1C Initiative™” hopes to educate Americans about the importance of A1C, a test that measures blood glucose levels over a two-month period and is considered the standard for assessing blood sugar control. An A1C level below 7% is the recommended medical target, and achieving this level can help reduce the risk of complications. However, more than half of Americans with diabetes undergoing treatment have unacceptably high blood sugar levels.

“My daughter Meredith has been living with juvenile diabetes for 15 years, so I have seen first-hand the challenges of managing diabetes,” Rep. Nethercutt said. “I’m pleased to support this effort to educate the more than 6 million Americans who struggle with controlling their blood sugar. If we can help people with diabetes achieve a good A1C level, not only will they live healthier lives, they will have a lower risk of developing complications such as stroke, heart attack, blindness or loss of limbs.”

“Diabetes is a health crisis in Colorado and across the nation,” said Rep. DeGette. “The benefits of lowering A1C are clear. For people with type 2 diabetes, a 1% decrease in A1C can lower their risk of developing complications related to diabetes by up to 35%. This reduction also is associated with a 25% reduction in diabetes-related deaths, and an 18% decline in combined fatal and nonfatal heart attacks. Educating people on the ability to control blood sugar levels is an important step toward reducing the risks associated with diabetes.”

The Congressional Diabetes Caucus is one of the largest and most influential Congressional organizations. Founded in 1995, it has grown to over 290 members. The mission of the Caucus is to increase the awareness of diabetes in Congress and to promote greater research into diabetes and diabetes-related complications. For more information, visit <http://www.house.gov/nethercutt/diabetes/>.

###